

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

FEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAB-01 EUR-12 /089 W

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R 121035Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0183

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0184

APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

BEIRUT PLS PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR PINS QA KU MU TC BA

SUBJECT : AMIR OF QATAR'S VIEWS ON GENERAL SITUATION IN GULF

1. SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR SEES A BALANCED SAUDI-IRANIAN
HEGEMONY WITH US IN BACKGROUND AS BEST GUARANTEE OF GULF
SECURITY. HE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER GOQ'S REFUSAL OF US
NAVAL VISIT AND APPROVAL OF US LANDING FACILITIES ON MASIRAH,
BUT CRITICIZED US INTERVENTION THREATS AS DAMAGING TO US
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INTERESTS AND FRIENDS IN AREA. ON POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER

GULF UNITY, AMIR WAS PESSIMISTIC BECAUSE OF DIVERSE AND SELFISH PREOCCUPATIONS OF AREA STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING FEB 11 CONVERSATION, AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, GAVE ME HIS VIEWS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GULF SITUATION.

3. RE REGIONAL SECURITY, AMIR SAID THIS RESTED ON TWO PILLARS, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, BOLSTERED BY THE US'S INTIMATE TIES WITH BOTH. AMIR INDICATED THAT NATURALLY, BEING AN ARAB, HE LOOKED FIRST TO SAUDIS, BUT REALISTICALLY IRAN HAD EQUALLY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN REGION. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDI ARABIAN AND IRANIAN HEGEMONY MUST BE EQUALLY BALANCED AND DEFINED BY AGREEMENT AND CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE EMPHASIZED ELEMENT OF BALANCE AND CLEARLY IMPLIED HIS UNEASE AT GROWING IRANIAN MILITARY POWER IN COMPARISON WITH SAUDIS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ALTHOUGH BOTH COUNTRIES NOW ABLY LED BY KING FAISAL AND SHAH, FUTURE LEADERSHIP UNCERTAIN AND UNKNOWN QUANTITY.

4. RE US SECURITY ROLE IN GULF, AMIR SAID THAT US WAS ULTIMATE GUARANTOR FOR SMALL WEAK STATES LIKE QATAR. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET ABOUT HIS RECENT DECISION DENYING CLEARANCE FOR US NAVAL VISIT AND EXPRESSED HIS APPROVAL OF US REQUEST FOR LANDING FACILITIES ON MASIRAH ISLAND. KHALIFA, HOWEVER, SHARPLY CRITICIZED OUR TIMING ON THESE TWO EVENTS SINCE THEY HAD COME AGAINST BACKDROP OF SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL US STATEMENTS THREATENING MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AREA. HE COMPLAINED THAT THESE STATEMENTS HAD BEEN "MADDENING" TO MODERATE STATES, SUCH AS QATAR, WHICH FRIENDLY TO US, AND HAD PROVIDED PROPAGANDA FIELD DAY FOR OUR MUTUAL ENEMIES. HE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT A TOP-LEVEL US VISIT TO GULF WOULD DO MUCH TO DISPEL CURRENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS RE US INTENTIONS IN REGION, AND WOULD ALSO USEFULLY ENHANCE OUR IMAGE AS FRIEND WHICH INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN AREA'S DEVELOPMENT.

5. RE SUBVERSION IN GULF, AMIR REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR VIEWS ON DANGERS FROM IRAQ AND DOHFAR REBELLION. RE LATTER, HE REMARKED THAT PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER, MUHAMMAD SALIH YAFAT, WAS WAITING

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IN NEXT ROOM TO SEE HIM, AND HE WOULD REITERATE WHAT HE HAD TOLD HIM AT RABAT SUMMIT, I.E. TO CEASE SUPPORT OF DHOFAR REBELS AND TO STOP BEING VEHICLE FOR SOVIET THEREFORE COMMUNIST PENETRATION OF GULF. AMIR INDICATED HE THOUGHT IT WORTH EFFORT FOR MODERATE GULF ARAB STATES TO WEAN PDRY AWAY FROM SOVIETS BY REPLACING SOVIET SUPPORT WITH ARAB SUPPORT.

6. RE PROSPECT OF FURTHER UNITY MOVES AMONG GULF STATES,

KHALIFA WAS PESSIMISTIC. HE RAN THROUGH HIS USUAL LITANY OF CRITICISM OF OTHER GULF STATES AND RULERS, AND PROCLAIMED HIMSELF AS ONLY ONE IN AREA WHO WILLING TO SACRIFICE IMMEDIATE SELF-INTEREST FOR STABILITY THAT UNITY AND BETTER COORDINATION WOULD PROVIDE. HE SAID BAHRAIN'S INTRANSIGENCE RE ITS TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH QATAR (SEPTEL); RESENTED PATRONIZING ATTITUDE OF KUWAIT AND ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH IRAQI BORDER PROBLEM; FRIVOLITY OF UAE RULERS; AND QABOOS' NATURAL PREOCCUPATION WITH DHOFAR REBELLION, WERE ALL FACTORS WORKING AGAINST MEANINGFUL GULF UNITY IN NEAR TERM. HE POINTED TO HIS FINANCING OF FOUR TRISTAR AIRCRAFT OF GULF AIR, TO THE TUNE OF \$180 MILLION, AS MOST RECENT EVIDENCE OF HIS OWN CONTRIBUTION TO GULF UNITY.
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